

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith. The present response is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Claims 1, 4, and 5 are pending.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over US Publication No. 2002/0164149 to Wilkinson (hereinafter, merely “Wilkinson”) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0244047 to Shinkai, et al. (hereinafter, merely “shinkai”).

Applicant notes that Shinkai is not prior art, and therefore does not provide a proper basis for rejection.

Shinkai has an effective filing date of November 12, 2003, which is after the effective filing date of the present application. Specifically, the present application is entitled to the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. §119, of Japanese application 2003-165858 filed on June 11, 2003 in Japan. Applicant has previously submitted a certified English translation of the priority document and the receipt of that document has been recognized by the U.S. Patent Office, specifically in the office action dated December 7, 2006.

Therefore, all rejections based on Shinkai are overcome and the pending claims are patentable.

Applicants submit that Wilkinson fails to teach or suggest the disclosure missing in Shinkai.

CONCLUSION

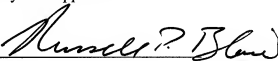
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 

Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
Russell P. Blaise
Reg. No. 66,567
(212) 588-0800